

Lamoine Conservation Commission
Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605
Minutes of the Meeting of December 12th, 2009 (Draft)

The meeting started at 7:05 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Bob Pulver (Chair), Fred Stocking (Secretary), Carol Korty, Amy Morley, David Schick, and Nancy Pochan (alternate);

Others present: Mike Jordan, John Holt and Willem Brutsaert

Agenda Items:

1. Review of Agenda and Minutes of the October Meeting: The Agenda was reviewed briefly. Bob noted that we had a great deal of items to touch on briefly and that we should focus on supporting the Planning Board water resources amendments and planning for the next six months. The October minutes were read and approved by a vote of 5-0.

2. Eelgrass Restoration in Frenchman Bay: Carol reported on recent contacts with Dr. Jane Disney and opportunities for more hands-on science education in Lamoine. Dr. Disney got a grant for MDI and Trenton elementary schools, but Trenton dropped out and Lamoine has joined the program. Eighth graders are growing eelgrass in the classroom. There is a Youth Eelgrass Summit scheduled for February, and Dr. Disney has asked for time at our January 13th meeting to discuss what we might do to help.

3. Aquifer Protection Amendments: Mike Jordan noted that there will be a Public Hearing on the amendments at 6:30 on January 19th at the Town Hall. Mike also noted that there might be changes to the ordinance based on comments, and that, if so, the Planning Board would schedule another Public Hearing to review those changes. The LCC asked the Planning Board what sort of support for the amendments would be helpful, but the Planning Board members in attendance declined to make any recommendation as to what action the LCC should take.

The LCC then reviewed the current draft (Draft # 3, September, 2009). John Holt noted that the Planning Board had clearly chosen a regulatory approach, rather than an attempt to ban large-scale water extraction. He noted that the Maine Rural Water Association took the position that such bans exceeded the authority of towns.

Mike and John explained how the ordinance worked in terms of required evaluations and testing. Willem suggested that there be a footnote indicating how the monthly extraction number had been established. Willem also urged that a sentence be added to make the point that groundwater is the sole source of drinking water in Lamoine. The LCC agreed that this language should be included, but Mike and John resisted the inclusion as "rhetoric." Fred stressed the importance of the pollution provisions, which are needed to bring Lamoine's ordinances protecting the aquifer up to the level of protection which Hancock provides. Fred also urged that the ordinance state that it is retroactive to the date when the Planning Board developed Draft #3, an approach which he asserted is permitted by Maine law.

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The LCC voted to fully support Draft #3 by a vote of 5-0.

John noted that the Selectfolk had set aside part of their agenda on the coming Thursday for a discussion with both the Planning Board and the LCC about a moratorium on water development. Bob was instructed by the LCC to notify the Selectfolk that the LCC was not proposing, and had not proposed, such a moratorium.

4. GET WET update: Carol noted that John Peckenham proposed to do the GET WET testing somewhat later this year, probably in March. Carol has a copy of the proposed curriculum and she and Bob will get it to the teachers. Fred asked whether there was any conflict between the eelgrass and water testing work, and Carol noted that it involved different grades. Fifth graders and high schoolers are involved with various parts of the GET WET program, while seventh and eighth graders are working on eelgrass. David noted that there is still no compilation of data from the water testing that is available to Lamoine decision-makers. Carol said that John keeps meaning to work on this, but the rapid expansion of the program means he never gets to it. Bob noted that we do not need any funds for this year's effort, as we have \$500.00 left over from last year's grant money.

5. Simons' Trail: David reported on a trail project he has been working on. Jerry and Iris Simon have granted a conservation easement over their property which includes a public access trail. David, with very occasional help from others, has done quite a bit of the trail clearing. He estimates that it is 80% marked and cleared. However, wet areas need to be bridged and a parking area at the trailhead needs to be established. David asked the LCC for support for the work and noted that grant funding may be available to meet some of the cash needs. The LCC agreed to consider sponsoring an appropriate grant application. John Holt noted the possibilities for other trail sections in the area.

6. Showing the documentary Tapped: Amy reported on her researches into showing the documentary Tapped, about drinking water issues. The filmmakers will make it available for one screening for \$300.00 or three screenings for \$500.00. They are urging that all showings be complete by a proposed World Water Day in March. Amy has investigated various venues and the economic arrangements they would require. There was a general discussion about venues and a consensus began to develop that a COA showing, an Ellsworth showing (perhaps at the Library) and a Lamoine Town Hall showing would be the best combination. Amy says that Lynne Williams, a Bar Harbor attorney and gubernatorial candidate active in water issues would be available to speak at a COA event. Amy will continue to follow up, aiming for February showings.

7. Bottle drive: Bob noted that the LCC had been granted the right to collect the Town Transfer station bottles in February, and that this would probably generate any funds necessary to cover any shortfall that a commitment to Tapped would require.

8. Blue Birds: Fred has had no time to pursue this, but will report further at the January meeting.

9. Lamoine Quarterly: Bob and Carol will do a GET WET piece, Amy and Carol will do something on the water movies. Stu will have something on the proposed ordinance amendments and the Public Hearing from the Planning Board.

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10. Concerns of those attending: Nancy would like to do something for earth day. She would like to see us start to talk about Peak Oil and the changes that will flow from the decreasing availability of petroleum. Fred agreed and expressed a desire for the LCC to participate in climate change events scheduled for October.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Stocking
Secretary
Lamoine Conservation Commission

Reviewed and _____ by the Lamoine Conservation Commission on _____, 2010 by a vote of ___ in favor and ___ opposed.

Fred Stocking, Secretary